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(WASHINGTON, DC) -- Today, President Bush signed legislation into law that will enable a major transportation infrastructure improvement in South St. Louis City and County. The legislation, introduced by Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3), passed through both Houses of Congress with broad bipartisan support.

H.R. 1129 will allow the construction, maintenance and operation of the Lemay Connector road to communities in South St. Louis City and County hard hit by the great flood of 1993. In 2003, the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) completed the River Des Peres Communities Transportation Investment Plan, a federally funded study, which identified this road as a regional infrastructure priority and deemed it essential to the long term recovery of the community.

"The transformation taking place in this area is the type communities dream about, turning environmentally contaminated idle properties into hundreds of millions of dollars in economic development, thousands of new jobs, and wonderful recreational opportunities alongside a national treasure, the Mississippi River," Carnahan said.

In order to build the connector road, St. Louis County must cross eight parcels of land acquired with CDBG funds after the '93 flood which carried with them FEMA deed-restrictions. The Carnahan bill authorizes the County to build on these previously restricted parcels and requires that the County take appropriate flood mitigation efforts.

Organizations such as the Hancock School District, Lemay Development Corporation and Lemay Chamber of Commerce have worked with public officials at all levels to achieve this new transportation infrastructure.

"This legislation will enable economic development, bringing badly needed jobs and tax revenues to our community," said Greg Hayden, President of the Lemay Chamber of Commerce and member of the St. Louis County Port Authority. "We could not be prouder of Congressman Carnahan and his ability to work with our community and

Congress to get the job done."

The Lemay connector road will provide improved access for first responders who have supported the project. In addition it will create an opportunity to redevelop multiple abandoned Brownfield industrial sites that have plagued our community for years. The road will also complete an important connection to the Great Rivers Greenway ring of bike trails and walking paths, as well as create new parks and recreational opportunities.

H.R. 1129 has also received support from local elected officials. **"The passage of this bill is the culmination of years of hard work and dedication on behalf of our citizens. The Lemay Connector Road is vital to the long-term recovery of our community and we are truly grateful for Congressman Carnahan's leadership,"** said State Representative Pat Yaeger.